

Tara Ramlal
Education Committee Testimony

Regarding School Construction Funds for Charter School & Support for HB 5283 & SB 229

Friday, March 4th, 2022

Good evening members of the Education Committee.

My name is Tara Ramlal and I am a parent and resident of Waterbury. My son and daughter are currently enrolled at Brass City Charter School in Waterbury where, I am happy to say, they are thriving, even during these unprecedented times.

I am speaking to you today to address the long standing inequities in our state's public education system. It is very upsetting that with a surplus of \$2.5 billion dollars our state is still not properly addressing the growing disparities in education. Even with the influx of federal aid, schools are struggling to provide necessary resources to their students. It is the responsibility of our state to ensure that when the federal funding runs out students do not lose resources and programs that those funds made possible. Our kids deserve better and deserve to be supported no matter what public school they attend. I support HB 5283 and ensuring that all public school students in our state are funded fairly and funded fully.

Even prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we as a nation were losing the battle on education. The pandemic has brought with it new challenges for our students, schools, and families and the best and the brightest are being lost in this country due to lack of resources. We know how important it is to keep our students in school and that learning alongside their peers is hugely beneficial, which is why our state needs to make sure all schools have access to funding for maintaining their buildings. My children have missed enough school as a result of this pandemic, they should never have to miss school due to preventable facilities issues. Charter schools need access to funding for improving and maintaining safe school buildings so that they don't have to choose between providing educational resources and repairing leaky roofs.

In closing, I want to thank this committee for the work you have done to support Connecticut students. Please continue to stand with our children by supporting HB 5283 and providing charter schools with access to funding for facilities. Support all our kids, regardless of which public school they attend.

Thank you for your time.

Tara Ramlal
Waterbury, CT
Brass City Charter School parent
matie-77@hotmail.com